

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 007065  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:DGBROWN:CB  
APPROVED BY EA:WHGLEYSTEN  
S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH  
-----111534 110222Z /73

R 110047Z JAN 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T STATE 007065

NODIS  
VIENNA PASS IAEA

FOL RPT 77 STATE 311109 SENT ACTION WHITE HOUSE DTD 31 DEC 77

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 311109

NODIS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED DECEMBER 31,  
1977 SENT TAIPEI IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 311109

NODIS

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3

TAGS:MNUC, TW

SUBJECT:THE TAIWAN RESEARCH REACTOR

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REFERENCE: (A) TAIPEI 7631  
(B) STATE 305275  
(C) STATE 305274

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S PROMPT ACTION ON DEMARCHE. AT  
PRESENT, IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO GIVE PRECISE ANSWERS TO  
VICE MINISTER CHIEN'S QUESTIONS. OUR INTERIM RESPONSES

ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. THE USG WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSIST THE ROC IN LOCATING A VESSEL SUITABLE FOR TRANSPORTING SPENT TRR FUEL FROM TAIWAN. NO SPECIFIC DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT PERMANENT STORAGE OF TRR SPENT FUEL; HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING WITH CANADIANS THE POSSIBILITY OF PERMANENTLY STORING SPENT NATURAL URANIUM SPENT FUEL FROM TRR IN CANADA. FYI: WHILE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT TIME OF PREPARING INSTRUCTION ON DEMARCHE (REF B) TO BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT ARRANGEMENTS TO BE MADE BY U.S. FOR PERMANENT SPENT FUEL STORAGE, WE DID WISH TO CONFIRM VIA THIS DEMARCHE AND ASSOCIATED AIDE MEMOIRE, ROC'S WILLINGNESS TO BEAR COSTS OF PREPARING AND SHIPPING THE SPENT FUEL.

THE DRY STORAGE ARRANGEMENTS WE PROPOSED WERE DESIGNED TO BE AN ACCEPTABLE INTERIM SOLUTION PENDING FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PERMANENT STORAGE. END FYI

3. USG WILL NOT BE IN POSITION TO MAKE FIRM DECISIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS RELATED TO TRR CONVERSION TO OPERATION ON LOW ENRICHED URANIUM FUEL PENDING REVIEW OF STUDY WHICH ATOMIC ENERGY OF CANADA, LIMITED, IS TO CONDUCT UNDER CONTRACT WITH U.S. HOWEVER, WE PRESENTLY ENVISION THAT A U.S. NATIONAL LABORATORY, SUCH AS ARGONNE, COULD PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN  
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THIS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, WE EXPECT TO HAVE RESULTS FROM THE CANADIAN STUDY BY MARCH.

4. THE DEPARTMENT IS TROUBLED BY CHIEN'S UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AND JOINT NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE ON GROUNDS THAT AEC SECRETARY-GENERAL CHENG AND INER DIRECTOR CHIEN HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT WITH USG IN WASHINGTON. WE BELIEVE THAT POSTPONING THESE DISCUSSIONS UNTIL LATE JANUARY (WHEN CHENG AND CHIEN PROPOSE TO VISIT WASHINGTON) WILL RESULT IN OUR LOSING THIS BEST OPPORTUNITY TO IMPLEMENT THIS ASPECT OF OUR NUCLEAR AGREEMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S DETERMINING, FROM WHATEVER CONTACTS WITH VICE MINISTER CHIEN OR VICTOR CHENG IT BELIEVES APPROPRIATE, WHAT CAN BE DONE TO OBTAIN MORE RAPIDLY ROC'S OFFICIAL REACTION TO PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF LETTERS RE PROCEDURES FOR JOINT NOTIFICATION TO IAEA. YOU SHOULD STRESS THAT WE ARE PUZZLED BY ROC'S FAILURE TO COMMENT PROMPTLY ON THE PROPOSED DRAFTS, EITHER AGREEING TO THEM OR PROPOSING

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE. YOU MAY NOTE THAT THIS EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WAS INTENTIONALLY PREPARED IN DRAFT REPEAT DRAFT FORM IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR MODIFICATIONS IF NECESSARY TO REACH MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TEXTS. ONCE ROC REACTION IS RECEIVED, DEPARTMENT HOPES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO EXPEDITIOUSLY RESOLVE ANY DIFFICULTIES THAT GROG MAY HAVE THROUGH DISCUSSIONS CONDUCTED VIA EMBASSY TAIPEI. USG WISHES TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE PROMPTLY IN ORDER TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME TO IMPLEMENT JOINT NOTIFICATION USING DECEMBER 31 INVENTORY DATA.

6. DEPARTMENT DOUBTS NECESSITY OF CHENG AND CHIEN PROCEEDING WITH THEIR PREVIOUS PLANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON IN JANUARY. HOWEVER, IF THEY STILL WISH TO DO SO, WE WOULD,  
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OF COURSE, RECEIVE THEM. IN DISCUSSING POSSIBILITY OF VISIT WITH ROC, EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR OUR INTENTION

TO CONFINE DISCUSSION OF TRR RELATED ISSUED TO THE EMBASSY-MOFA CHANNEL UNTIL WE HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT REGARDING OUR DEMARCHE. IN ADDITION, WE DO NOT SEE WHY DISCUSSION OF EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AND JOINT NOTIFICATION SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL CHENG AND CHIEN VISIT WASHINGTON. IN FACT, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEIR VISIT WOULD BE USEFUL UNLESS WE HAD FIRST REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE CONCERNING EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AND JOINT NOTIFICATION.  
CHRITOPHER UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**To:** VIENNA  
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**Review Markings:**  
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